

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 05870 051801Z

44

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 L-01

SP-02 IGA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 MC-02 ITF-05

SR-02 ORM-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01 /059 W

----- 027699

O 051725Z MAY 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2953

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACREPPHIL IMMEDIATE

HW13TH AF IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5870

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, SREF, CB, VS, RP, US

SUBJECT: US TITLE TO VIETNAMESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: A. MANILA 5843

B. MANILA 5864

1. DFA DELIVERED URGENT NOTE THIS EVENING (MAY 5) (IN
REPLY TO EMB NOTE REF A) WHICH STATES INTER ALIA THAT UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS QUESTION OF TITLE TO PUBLIC VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT
OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SHALL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED
BETWEEN US AND PRG, THOSE WHICH HAVE ENTERED OR MAY ENTER THE
PHILIPPINES WILL REMAIN UNDER INTERNMENT (FULL TEXT BELOW).

2. GOP DECISION OF COURSE CONTRARY TO UNDERSTANDING WITH
ROMULO (REF B) AND AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY DISCUSSED WITH
MELCHOR AND PONCE ENRILE WHO ALSO ATTENDED CABINET MEETING
THIS AFTERNOON AT WHICH DECISION MADE. THEY CLAIM MEETING
AGREED ROMULO WOULD CHECK NOTE WITH AMBASSADOR FOR HIS CON-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 05870 051801Z

CURRENCE BEFORE TRANSMITTAL. THEY ALSO APPEARED NAIVELY UNAWARE

OF IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ACT OF FOLLY WHICH FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY DFA SENDING IDENTICAL NOTE TO PRG. PONCE ENRILE ATTEMPTED TO STOP DESPATCH OF NOTE TO PRG BUT NOTE HAD ALREADY BEEN DESPATCHED. PONCE ENRILE AND MELCHOR SEEM UNNERVED BY OUR REACTION AND INDICATED STRONG DESIRE TO TRY TO SORT OUT PROBLEM TOMORROW.

3. IN MEANTIME WE HAVE URGED CINCPACREPPHIL TO INSTRUCT THOSE VIETNAMESE MAP FURNISHED VESSELS ENROUTE TO SUBIC TO BYPASS SUBIC IF THEY ARE ABLE TO DO SO AND PROCEED DIRECT TO GUAM. UNFORTUNATELY, MOST VIETNAMESE VESSELS NOW TRYING TO REACH SUBIC ARE IN POOR CONDITION, CROWDED WITH SICK AND EXHAUSTED REFUGEES, AND UNABLE TO MAKE LONG VOYAGE TO GUAM. FOR SUCH SHIPS THERE IS NO CHOICE BUT TO LET THEM ENTER SUBIC AND RISK "INTERNMENT" BY GOP.

4. COMMENT: IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT GOP WOULD WISH TO BRING UPON ITSELF THE WRATH OF THE US AND JEOPARDIZE CHANCES OF OBTAINING LEGALLY FROM US AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS FROM VIETNAM MAP. MOST REASONABLE EXPLANATION AT THE MOMENT IS SMART ASS GAMBIT BY ROMULO WHICH MELCHOR AND PONCE ENRILE SHOULD HAVE HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO PREVENT.

5. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DFA NOTE 75-1180 DATED MAY 5:
QUOTE

IN REPLY, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO STATE THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW ALL PUBLIC VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHICH HAVE ENTERED OR WHICH MAY ENTER THE PHILIPPINES HAVE TO BE INTERNED. THIS APPLIES TO LSM-400 AND LST-802 WHICH ACCORDING TO INFORMATION ARRIVED IN SUBIC RESPECTIVELY ON 3 AND 4 MAY 1975, AND TO THE DC-6A (XV FCIII) WHICH LANDED IN CLARK AIR FORCE BASE ON 29 APRIL 1975.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WISHES TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT IT HAS

RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM DATED 5 MAY 1975 REQUESTING HELP IN "THE COMPLETE AND URGENT RETURN TO THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM" OF THE WARSHIPS AND AIRPLANES WHICH OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 05870 051801Z

THE DEFUNCT SAIGON ADMINISTRATION HAVE TAKEN WITH THEM IN THEIR FLIGHT TO THE PHILIPPINES.

IN VIEW THEREOF, THE QUESTION OF TITLE OVER SUCH PUBLIC VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT OF THE FORMER REBPULIC OF VIETNAM WHICH HAVE ENTERED OR WHICH MAY ENTER THE PHILIPPINES WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE QUESTION OF

TITLE SHALL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, THE PUBLIC VESSELS AND
AIRCRAFT OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHICH HAVE ENTERED
OR WHICH MAY ENTER THE PHILIPPINES WILL REMAIN UNDER
INTERNMENT. UNQUOTE
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA05870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0284
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750581/aaaacwgn.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 MANILA 5843
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US TITLE TO VIETNAMESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TAGS: AEMR, SREF, CB, VS, RP, US, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006